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John Whitburn, member of the Education Committee of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

#### THE ST. LOUIS MEETINGS.

REFERENCE has been made several times in the course of the year in the columns of SCIENCE to the scientific meetings to be held in St. Louis in convocation week, beginning on December 28. The American Association for the Advancement of Science and most of the bodies which commonly meet in affiliation

with the association decided last winter to hold their next meeting in St. Louis, and it was expected that, in continuation of the effort that has been made for the last two years, the American Society of Naturalists and most of the bodies of professional men who have met in affiliation with that society would decide to hold their coming meeting at the same place. Unfortunately the American Society did not reach a decision as to its meeting place until autumn, and in the meantime some of the affiliating bodies had decided on an eastern meeting, though the larger number of them are expected to meet in St. Louis, with the Naturalists, at the time of the American Association meeting.

Desiring and anticipating a large attendance, the scientific and educational interests of St. Louis have organized an efficient local committee, and this committee is now at work on arrangements for the meeting. To facilitate these arrangements, it is desirable that the secretaries of the different sections of the American Association, and of all the other bodies that are to meet there in convocation week, write at the earliest possible date to the local secretary, Professor A. S. Langsdorf, of Washington University, St. Louis, letting him know the estimated seating capacity needed for their meetings, as well as the equipment that will be necessary or desirable, so that the subcommittee on equipment may secure ample provision for each.

It is probable that the meetings will be held in the Central High School, with a possible overflow into adjacent suitable buildings, but there is every reason to believe that if the committee is given prompt and definite information on which to make its arrangements all the meetings can be held so close to one another that those desiring to pass from one section to another or from either to the ses-

sions of any affiliated society can do so without loss of time, thus avoiding some of the difficulties of the meetings last winter. The High School is a modern building with interior telephone service and other conveniences; adequate telephone, mail, express and other facilities will be provided and if it is wished a local telegraph office can be established in it; a considerable number of the rooms are provided with lanterns as a part of their regular equipment, and enough others to secure reasonable convenience for sections that only occasionally use this adjunct can be provided; and arrangements are being made to ensure adequate and reasonably cheap hotel accommodations in the vicinity of the High School, which is within easy reach by trolley service of the railroad station and downtown hotels, while the grounds and buildings of the World's Fair, Washington University, the Academy of Science and the Missouri Botanical Garden are all readily reached from this point, which is centrally situated with respect to the extensive trolley service of the city. Every possible courtesy will be extended to those in attendance at the meetings, by the citizens of St. Louis and the exposition authorities, and it is expected that the transportation committee will secure rates that will make it possible for those living at a considerable distance to attend the meetings without serious expense. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the secretaries of the sections of the American Association and of the Society of Naturalists and all of the societies that are to meet in connection with these organizations will work in cooperation with each other to prepare a general program that will possess the greatest possible homogeneity and convenience and that the local committee may promptly be placed in possession of definite data on which they may provide ample accommodations for all.